

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02952

E.O.11652:GDS
TAGS:AORG, SF, WA, MARR
SUBJECT: UNADMINISTRATION: FIELD OPERATIONS CONTINGENCY
PLANNING FOR UNTAG-NAMIBIA

SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO UN DIRECTOR OF FIELD OPERATIONS
STAFF LANSKY, UN HAS ACCUMULATED ROSTER FROM WHICH TO
OBTAIN PERSONNEL FOR CIVILIAN SIDE OF UNTAG, HAS IDENTI-
FIED AND DISCREETLY SOUNDED OUT POTENTIAL TROOP CONTRI-
BUTORS AND HAS MADE SOME PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR
DISPATCH OF COMBINED ADVANCE/SURVEY PARTY. FOS PLANS TO
RELY ON SOUTH AFRICAN COMMERCIAL SOURCES TO EXTENT
POSSIBLE FOR SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. USUN CONTACTED UN FOS AND UNOFS TO INQUIRE
ABOUT ADVANCE PLANNING FOR UNTAG CIVILIAN OPERATIONS
PLANNING AND COST OF OPERATIONS. FOS HAS COMPILED
ROSTER OF ABOUT 300 NAMES FROM WHICH TO SELECT CIVILIAN
PERSONNEL FOR UNTAG. LANSKY SAID ROSTER IS COMPOSITE OF
UN STAFF WITH PREVIOUS UN EXPERIENCE IN PEACEKEEPING/SELF-
DETERMINATION OPERATIONS, FORMER UN PERSONNEL WITH SUCH
EXPERIENCE IN ADDITION TO NON-UNITED NATIONS RECOMMENDED
PERSONS PROVIDED MAINLY BY UN OFFICIALS. LANSKY SAID
HE AND USYG URQUHART ARE IN AGREEMENT THAT UN DOES NOT
WANT "TOO MANY RANK OUTSIDERS" IN UNTAG. EXPERIENCE IN
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CONGO AND ELSEWHERE HAD SHOWN THAT SUCH PEOPLE ARE
"OPPORTUNISTS" WHO USE LIMITED DURATION UN OPERATIONS
AS ACCESS TO PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT. LANSKY SAYS THAT HE
HOPES TO PLACE AT LEAST TWO CIVILIANS FULLY CONVERSANT
WITH UN IN EACH OF NAMIBIA'S 56 ELECTORAL DISTRICTS. FOR
THREE WEEK ELECTION PERIOD, LANSKY WOULD HOPE TO OBTAIN
SECONDEMENT OF OFFICIALS WITH ELECTORAL SUPERVISION

EXPERIENCE FROM MEMBER STATES.

3. LANSKY SAID PRESENT ROSTER OF 300 CONTAINS A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF US NATIONALS. WHILE MORE NOMINATIONS FROM US WOULD BE ACCEPTED GRATEFULLY, LANSKY SAID HE FELT UN WOULD BE STRIVING TO FAIRLY BROAD-BASED GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF UNTAG CIVILIANS.

4. LANSKY SAID THAT UN IS VERY HARD PRESSED, HOWEVER, TO LOCATE COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL (RADIO OPERATORS AND TECHNICIANS) AND VEHICLE MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL. UN WOULD MOST GRATEFULLY RECEIVE US NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES IN THESE FIELDS. (LANSKY FURTHER INDICATED THAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR PERMANENT EMPLOYMENT WITH UN IN THESE FIELDS ARE GOOD. (IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION, LANSKY'S DEPUTY--SCHUMACHER--STATED THAT GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENT WOULD BE WAIVED FOR THESE PERSONNEL, THAT APPOINTMENTS WOULD BE IN GRADES F2 OR 3 WITH ADDITIONAL STEPS TO BRING COMPENSATION TO F-4 LEVEL AND THAT CANDIDATES MUST HAVE BOTH ENGLISH AND FRENCH.)

5. ON MILITARY SIDE, LANSKY SAID UN HAS APPROACHED ARGENTINA, CANADA, FINLAND, INDIA, IRAN, NIGERIA, AND ROMANIA WITH REGARD TO PROVIDING TROOPS FOR UNTAG. NO RESPONSES YET. IF ARGENTINA DECLINES, BRAZIL AND

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VENEZUELA WILL BE APPROACHED, AND YUGOSLAVIA WILL BE SOUNDED OUT SHOULD ROMANIA DECLINE. IRAN IS BEING ASKED TO PROVIDE INTERNAL AIR TRANSPORT. LANSKY WOULD LIKE UK, OR US IF BRITS DECLINE, TO RUN LOGISTIC OPERATION. ALL POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS ARE BEING ADVISED TO SEND UNITS FULLY EQUIPPED, INCLUDING WELL-DRILLING TEAMS.

6. LANSKY SAID UN ENVISAGES UNTAG LASTING A FULL YEAR. NORMAL UN ROTATION PATTERN ON TROOP ROTATION (EVERY SIX MONTHS) WOULD LEAD TO WHOLESAL CHANGE OF GUARD JUST AT CRUCIAL POINT WHEN ELECTIONS ARE TAKING PLACE. LANSKY SEEMED REASONABLY CONFIDENT THAT GOVERNMENTS WHOSE UNITS WERE DRAWN FROM PROFESSIONAL ARMIES (E.G. NIGERIA) COULD BE PERSUADED TO LEAVE THEIR INITIALLY-ASSIGNED SOLDIERS IN NAMIBIA FOR NINE MONTHS, THEREBY AVOIDING COMPLETE TURNOVER IN UNTAG.

7. LANSKY SAID FOS PLANS TO RELY TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE ON SOUTH AFRICAN PROVENDORS FOR SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT. NORMAL UN PRACTICE IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS WOULD CALL FOR THIS IN PROCUREMENT OF FOOD-

STUFFS AND SIMILARLY COMMERCIALY-AVAILABLE DAILY-USE ITEMS. LANSKY INDICATED THAT PRACTICE WILL BE BROADENED TO INCLUDE PURCHASE OF SUCH BASIC EQUIPMENT AS JEEPS, COMMUNICATIONS GEAR, AND THE LIKE. THIS SHOULD SPEED PROCUREMENT AND HELP TO HOLD DOWN COSTS OF AN OPERATION THAT WILL BE QUITE EXPENSIVE.

8. LANSKY SAID UN PLANS TO SEND COMBINED ADVANCE/SURVEY PARTY TO WINDHOEK AS SOON AS SECURITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZES USYG TO ACT ON NAMIBIA. ADVANCE PARTY, LED BY AHTISAARI, WILL REMAIN IN WINDHOEK, WHILE SURVEY PARTY--AFTER HAVING

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02952

MADE THOROUGH INSPECTION OF TERRITORY--WILL RETURN TO NEW YORK TO WRITE REPORT AND PREPARE BUDGET ESTIMATES. THROUGHOUT CONVERSATION LANSKY STRESSED BOTH IMMENSITY OF UNTAG'S MISSION IN RELATION TO UN'S RECENT PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS AND PAUCITY OF FOS' INFORMATION ABOUT CONDITIONS AND FACILITIES IN NAMIBIA. THIS LATTER FACTOR, HE UNDERLINED, SEVERELY RESTRICTS ADVANCE PLANNING. LANSKY INDICATED THAT INPUT FROM WESTERN FIVE ON DEVELOPMENT OF UN'S PLANS WOULD BE HELPFUL AND WELCOMED.

9. UN OFFICE OF FINANCIAL SERVICES (ISSAEVITCH) SEPARATELY TOLD USUN THAT NO WORK HAS YET BEEN DONE TO DEVELOP COST ESTIMATES FOR UNTAG. ISSAEVITCH SAID THIS WORK COULD NOT BE DONE UNTIL SURVEY TEAM RETURNS FROM NAMIBIA AND WOULD REQUIRE ABOUT ONE WEEK TO COMPLETE. MCHENRY

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